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Message Text

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43
ACTION AID-31

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-14 ISO-00 HEW-08 FDRE-00 SCI-06 MED-03

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 /085 W
---------- 116791
P R 301813Z APR 74
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5470
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

UNCLAS GENEVA 2707

FOR AID/AFR

PASS ALSO TO IO/HDC AND OIH/DHEW

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SWEL TBIO HWO
SUBJECT: HELICOPTER SUPPORT FOR SMALLPOX ERADICATION IN
ETHIOPIA

SUMMARY. WHO REPORTS URGENT NEED FOR USE OF ONE HELICOPTER DURING MONTH OF MAY FOR SMALLPOX ERADICATION IN ETHIOPIA. INQUIRES IN ADDIS BY ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT AND WHO OFFICIALS INDICATE THAT ONLY HELICOPTER AVAILABLE WOULD BE ONE OF THREE BEING PROVIDED BY USAID. MISSION RECOMMENDS AID/W FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION FOR ASSIGNING ONE HELICOPTER TO THIS PROGRAM DURING MAY. END SUMMARY.

1. SMALLPOX ERADICATION IN ETHIOPIA WHICH HAS PROGRESSED WELL IS NOW FACING DIFFICULT PROBLEMS IN EASTERN PARTS OF GOJJAM AND BEGEMDIR PROVINCES AND WESTERN WOLLO PROVINCE BECAUSE OF DIFFICULT TERRAIN AND DISSEMINATION OF DISEASE BECAUSE OF MIGRATION OF POPULATION DUE TO DROUGHT. WHO BELIEVES SUBSTANTIAL CONTROL COULD BE ACHIEVED IF ONE HELICOPTER COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR MONTH OF MAY TO FERRY ETHIOPIAN SANITARIANS AS WELL AS AMERICAN, AUSTRIAN AND JAPANESE VOLUNTEERS INTO PROBLEM AREAS AND TO TRANSFER THEM FROM POINT TO POINT WITHIN THE AREA EVERY TWO TO FIVE DAYS. NEED FOR HELICOPTER ASSISTANCE IS URGENT AS RAINS IN THESE AREAS WILL STOP WORK FROM EARLY JUNE TO SEPTEMBER.
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2. WHO AND ETHIOPIAN GEOVERNMENT ARE REPORTED TO HAVE APPROACHED VARIOUS EMBASSIES BUT ONLY POSSIBLE AVAILABLE SOURCE OF SUPPORT FOR THE PERIOD NOTED WOULD BE FROM USAID WHICH IS UNDERSTOOD TO BE SUPPLYING THREE HELICOPTERS DUE TO ARRIVE IN EARLY MAY.

3. WHO REPORTS THAT UNDP IS IN FULL SUPPORT OF PROPOSAL AND THAT USAID/ADDIS IS AWARE OF THE PLAN AND DETAILS. ASIDE FROM SMALLPOX BEING A SERIOUS HEALTH PROBLEM IN ETHIOPIAN DROUGHT AREAS, THE SMALLPOX PROGRAM HAS HIGH GLOBAL PRIORITY FOR BOTH WHO AND USA, ESPECIALLY IN ETHIOPIA WHICH IS LAST COUNTRY WITH SMALLPOX IN AFRICA.

4. MISSION RECOMMENDS URGENT CONSIDERATION THIS PROPOSAL AND IMPLEMENTING ARRANGEMENTS IF AT ALL POSSIBLE. DALE

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Draft Date: 30 APR 1974
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
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